

Poor crowd

Wycombe Wanderers 2

Willington 1

ONLY a few hundred people tore themselves away from the 'box' to watch this entertaining South v North encounter Loakes Park on Friday — a game which, had it borne a cup label, would have attracted thousands.

There was nothing at stake save reputations, but both sides fought hard for that and Wycombe, not at full strength, joined a number of southern clubs defeating Wembley-bound northern opposition.

And they did it despite the loss during the game of Rob Williams and Brian Langfield, both injured and could be doubtful for tonight's (Tuesday) Premier Midweek Semi-final.

Wycombe dominated the first half and led 2-0 at the interval with well taken headed goals by Langfield and Searle. The only real threat to Wanderers in this period was Willington's strong man Connor, in the no. 9 shirt, who menaced powerfully in picking up the long kick out of defence.

Williams was replaced in the second half by Tony Horseman, and the Blues lost their dominance in midfield. Willington fought back strongly and 'keeper Spittle brought off some sparkling saves.

But he stood helpless against a 30-yard drive from Franks which clipped the bar as it went in.

Willington substituted Taylor for Suddes late in the game to put more emphasis on attack while Wycombe brought on Hutchinson for Langfield, who fell awkwardly after a fierce, high header which almost put Wycombe out of danger.

It was Willington who came closest to scoring in the closing minutes, when Pearson's shot was brilliantly turned round the post by Spittle.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle, P. Birdseye, I. Rundle, D. Bullock, J. Delaney, R. Williams, B. Langfield, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, A. Gane, M. Holifield; subs., Horseman and Hutchinson.

WILLINGTON: Wilson, Suddes, Carr, Pearson, Fenwick, Rankin, B. Newton, Franks, Connor, D. Newton, Holden; sub., Taylor.